

# **APPENDIX 48**



Maryland



Virginia

November 25, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your Fiscal 2011 budget, we urge you to make restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries a top priority and allocate sufficient resources to begin carrying out the water quality, landscape conservation, habitat restoration, and other initiatives called for under Executive Order #13508.

We are grateful for your leadership in issuing the first-ever Executive Order on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, renewing the federal government's commitment to help to restore and protect our national treasure. Over the past six months since the Order was first issued, our states and the District of Columbia have worked closely with the Federal Leadership Committee to develop a coordinated strategy and action plan to accelerate restoration of the Bay, its rivers, and streams.

Implementing that strategy and plan will require a significant investment in resources to reduce polluted runoff from farms and urban and suburban stormwater, upgrade sewage treatment plants, conserve natural places, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and increase local government and citizen stewardship in the protection of local waterways. It is estimated that the cost of upgrading the Blue Plains sewage treatment plant alone is approximately \$3.2 billion over the next 10 years. Federal assistance is absolutely essential if our efforts to fully restore the health of the Bay are to succeed. A review of the seven reports produced under Executive Order #13508 yield conservative estimates as to the following annual funding needs for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed:

- \$60 million for land conservation and public access;
- \$100 million for technical and conservation assistance to agricultural sectors;
- \$40 million for habitat and fish and wildlife restoration, including oysters;
- \$10 million for climate change preparedness and adaptation;
- \$100 million for stormwater controls and stream restoration;
- \$5 million for monitoring and accountability activities; and
- \$50 million for upgrades to the Blue Plains sewage treatment plant.

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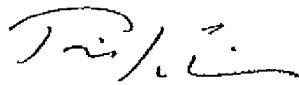
We recognize that the federal government, like our State and local governments, faces very difficult budget constraints. However, we believe that a federal investment of \$365 million in a restored Chesapeake Bay, similar in magnitude to the level of federal investments being made in restoring the Everglades, the Great Lakes, and other natural treasures would return enormous dividends to both the economy and the environment. Alternatively, without help, the Bay will continue to face stagnating or deteriorating ecological conditions, decreasing economic value, and increasing restoration costs.

Your attention to this matter and assistance would be greatly appreciated, and we stand ready and anxious to collaborate with you, your staff and Cabinet, and our colleagues in the Congress as the budget and subsequent appropriations processes develop.

Sincerely,



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
Virginia

cc: The Maryland Congressional Delegation  
The Virginia Congressional Delegation